Sir

As I perceive, from the printed papers lately putt into my hands; containing Mr. Mylne's Report on Hexham Bridge, Mr. Livingstons address to the Magistrates of the county of Northumberland, and Mr. Mylnes Repot and opinion thereon; that there are some points of Art in which Mr. Mylne and myself differ in opinion: & as this difference may possibly delay the compromise, that is to be wished for between the County and Mr. Livingston concerning that unfortunate undertaking: I am much inclined to think, that if Mr. Mylne and my self, were to meet the bench of Magistrates; at the next general Quarter Sessions; that it would be by no means difficult to settle this matter, so far as concerns what Mr. Livingston ought to pay the County. If therefore Mr. Mylne can attend at that time (though it will be at a time very inconvenient to my affairs) yet if please God to spare me life, I will not fail to give him the meeting.

I have now taken the earliest opperturnity that my State of Health would permitt of Surveying the Ruins of that ill fated Edifice: and I am now in compliance with the request of Mr. Livingston, upon the verbal desire of the Magistrates, proceeding to form Estimates thereon; which I shall compleat before I proceed to any other business.

I am with great respect

Sir

Your most humble Servant

J. Smeaton

Sandhoe
5th Decr 1783.

J. Davidson Esq.

F.R.S.

John Smeaton of Austhorpe in Yorkshire Esqr, the celebrated Civil Engineer, and eminent Mechanic, was born at that place in 1724. His Father who was an Attorney wishing to bring up his Son to the same profession sent him to London to attend the Courts in Westminster Hall in 1742, but this not suiting the bent of his own genius, which being of a Mechanical turn, he became a Mathematical Instrument Maker. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1753, and in 1759, the Gold Medal was unanimously voted to him, for a paper entitled "An Experimental Enquiry concerning the Natural Powers of Wind and Water to turn Mills and other Machines — depending on a Circular Motion. He was appointed to Rebuild the Eddystone Lighthouse, which he completed in 1759 in a Manner that did him the highest Credit and — were there no other Monuments of his fame would establish his Character. About 1785 he was appointed Engineer to Ramsgate Harbour, which plan he greatly Improved to the Advantage of Shipping. As a Civil Engineer Mr. Smeaton was not — equalled by any of the Age he lived in, it may perhaps be added, by none of any preceeding Age. In the early part of his life he was appointed one of the Receivers of the Derwentwater Estate for Greenwich Hospital and in that as well as every other Undertaking in which he was engaged distinguished himself by his Modesty, punctuality and unremitting Intensity. About 6 Weeks before his Death, he was suddenly attacked with a paralytic Stroke which took away his Speech and Died there on the 28 September 1792. He wrote & published an Acct of the Eddystone Lighthouse in 4to and some other pieces.

NB. This Letter was addressed by him to the Clerk of the peace for Northumberland. the Hon. John Davidson of Newcastle upon Tyne Esqr.

DSI

5 Dec 1803

W Smeaton
Lic with Schmidt

To

John Davidson Esq.

Clerk of the Peace

Newcastle

D61

This is the first Seyal of

John Smeaton of Austhorpe

in the County of York Engineer

of Copying with the Patent Machine

invented by Mr James Watt and Co

of BIRMINGHAM

done at Austhorpe the 2d September 1780

J. Smeaton

# AUTOGRAPHE

de

*Smeaton*

*John*

## OBSERVATIONS

L.a.s. 1 p.fol., Sandhoe, 5.Dezember 1783; betrifft Schätzungen für die Hexham-Brücke über den Tyme. Diese Brücke wurde als einzige in England von Smeaton im Jahre 1777 erbaut und ~~XXX~~ durch eine Ueberschwemmung im Jahre 1782 weggeschwemmt. Mit sehr schön erhaltenem Siegel und eigh. Adr. an John Davidson Newcastle. Etwas stockfleckig.

*Geb. 28. 5. 1724 Austhorpe bei Leeds*
*Gest. 28. 10. 1792 Austhorpe.*
*Anfangs als Rechtsanwalt, studierte bis 1750 als Mathematiker in London, später Mitglied der Royal Society, seit 1771 Mitbegründer des Hafens von Greenwich + Deptford. Machte 1751 zwei Vorschläge mit der Knight Zweifels Prüfung einer von ihm erfundenen Kompasses und seiner Verbesserung, dann Konstruktion eines Schiffes zu messen. Seit 1753 Mitgl. der Royal Society. Gründete die Soc of Civil-Engineers, die auch seine Werke herausgab. Baute Brücken und den Forth und Clyde Kanal.*

~~WATT, James, Jr.~~

Smeaton, John

see Watt, James

for specimen of handwriting
copied by Watt's Copying Machine